

Abstract of the Disclosure

A body brace for immobilizing or stabilizing a patient's spine in a post-surgical therapeutic application, or for treating abnormal spinal curvature, includes body-conforming front and back shell elements molded from plastic, and adjustable strap elements affixed thereto for attaching the shells together around the torso of the patient with a selected compressive force. An upper chest pressure plate and an upper posterior pressure plate can be attached to the front and rear shells, respectively, via adjustable, lockable hinge mechanisms. The hinge mechanisms permit adjustment of both the angle and longitudinal position of the pressure plates, so as to maintain a selected kyphotic angle and to apply adjustable stabilizing forces to the patient's spine. The brace can also include an adjustable, removable, interlocking iliac crest belt, affixed to the inside of the back shell. The belt is secured about the patient's waist and upper hip region, engaging the iliac crests of the patient and providing additional pressure and stabilization force. Adjustable hook and loop fastening elements can be used to fasten the iliac crest belt. The brace can further include removable, compressible inner liner elements that line the inner portions of the front and back shells, pressure plates, and iliac crest belt.

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